(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e) The visit was exploratory in nature to mutually understand import and export operations of iron ore in each other's country.

National Steel Policy

1195. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized a new National Steel Policy;

(b) if so, whether the same has been posted on the Ministry's website; and

(c) whether steel decontrol being there for years now, Government would consider winding up of the Joint Plant Committee and other obsolete licensing/control bodies to lend transparency at par with global steel industry standards?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) in its 6th Report had recommended winding up of the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) and the office of the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI&S). In pursuance of these recommendations the DCI&S organisation was closed w.e.f. 23rd May 2003. The JPC is not performing any licensing/control function. In view of certain vital functions, related to collection and analysis of data related to the steel sector, being perfomed by JPC, the Government is not contemplating its closure.

Status of POSCO

1196. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the status of POSCO project of Orissa cleared by the PMO in April, 2005;

(b) whether it is a fact that National Advisory Council is not in favour of implementing the project;

(c) whether the Minstry of Mines has also objected to this project; and

(d) by when the final decision is expected to be made public regarding the fate of the project?